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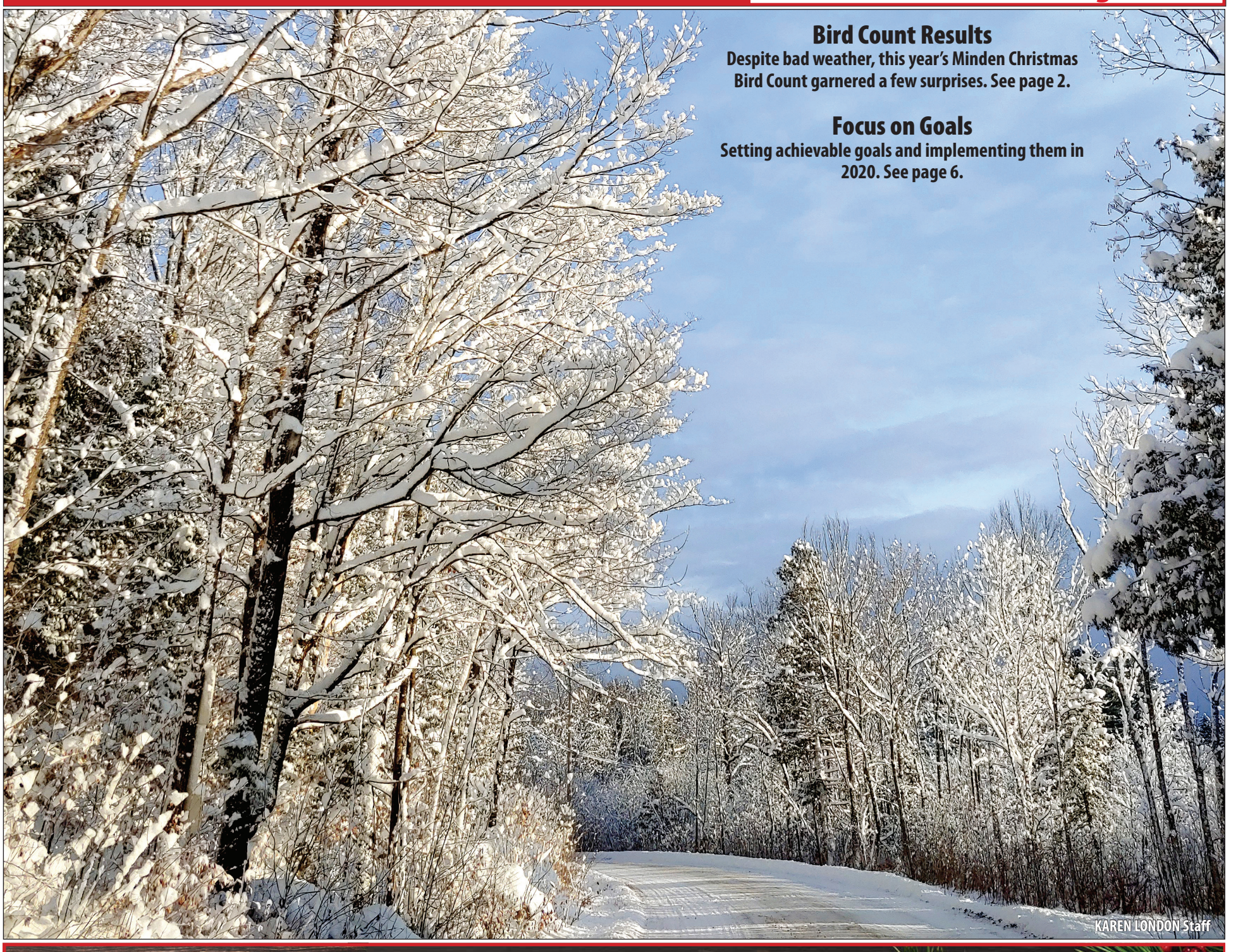

Bird Count Results

Despite bad weather, this year's Minden Christmas Bird Count garnered a few surprises. See page 2.

Focus on Goals

Setting achievable goals and implementing them in 2020. See page 6.

KAREN LONDON Staff

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2019 Minden Christmas Bird Count Results

ED POROPAT
Special to *County Life*

Varied Thrush, Miner's Bay. /Photo by Robert Beeney

Another bird count has come and gone in the Highlands. Despite the presence of some interesting birds, the 2019 Minden Christmas Bird Count will more likely be remembered for the foul weather, rather than the birds.

Saturday, Dec. 14 brought mild temperatures near the freezing point, but with that came a steady rain mixed with freezing rain until noon, followed by a wet, heavy snow in the afternoon. Despite this, 27 intrepid field observers fanned out across the southern part of Haliburton County to conduct a yearly inventory of birds utilizing the area.

Overall, our avian friends were very scarce, as most of them likely chose to find shelter and wait out the inclement weather. Concerned feeder watchers reported quiet feeding stations throughout the count circle, with some of the 23 observers stating that it was the worst that they could recall. The total number of individual birds observed this year supported that claim, with the lowest totals recorded since 1985. So what do the numbers tell us?

The count produced a total of 40 different species, and 2,210 individuals. An additional two species were observed during the count week (a Great Horned Owl and a Northern Goshawk). The diversity of 40 species was below the 20 year average of 45, but really not a surprise, given the nasty weather. Several species that are regularly found on the count were absent that day. The total individual count of 2,210 was significantly lower than most years, and almost half of the 20 year average of 4,390. Remarkably, in 2007, we recorded more Black-capped Chickadees alone, than the total number of birds counted this year. As predicted, feeders were especially quiet, as there is ample food in the woods, and many birds are not needing to supplement their natural diets. Cones, catkins, fruits, and berries are all in good supply around the county.

Two different birds were the highlight of this year's count. Both were the first ever recorded on the Minden count, bringing the total number to a notable 108 species.

The first was a vagrant from the rain forests of British Columbia, the beautiful Varied Thrush. It is a close relative of our American Robin, but much more elusive. A shy male was discovered visiting feeders near Miner's Bay on Nov. 30. It has remained in the area, and was observed several times during the count. Incredibly, it is the second known Varied Thrush visiting Haliburton County this winter!

The other stellar find was a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, discovered near Minden. Although a common bird during breeding season, this bird should be in Central or South America by now, but has hung on by visiting feeders and fruit trees in the area. I would gladly take its spot in Costa Rica right now!

Waterfowl were generally scarce this year, despite some large expanses of open water. Trumpeter Swans (4) made an appearance in Moore Falls, and Hooded Mergansers (3) drifted down the Burnt River near Gelert. Common Loons (2) persisted on Gull Lake. They will need to depart soon, as they require long distances to become airborne, and a few cold nights might suddenly decrease the amount of open water.

Raptors were understandably scarce, as the visibility was poor throughout the day, making hunting a challenge. A single Cooper's Hawk was observed ambushing birds at feeders near dawn in Minden, and Bald Eagles (6) were seen between Lochlin and Gelert. A couple of Barred Owls were out hunting during the day.

Woodpeckers were difficult to find throughout the day, both at feeders and in the woods. As predicted, Blue Jays (358) were common, with the abundance of acorns in the area. A single Canada Jay was found near Buller, the first in a couple of years. Black-capped Chickadees (658) were once again the most commonly counted species, although their numbers were down significantly also.

Any thrush at this time of year is considered a good find. In addition to the rare Varied Thrush, American Robins (2) were found roaming around Kinmount. Also, a Hermit Thrush (1) made a brief appearance near the Fred and Pearl Barry Wetland. It was only the third ever recorded on the Minden count.

The abundance of natural food has encouraged sparrows and juncos to remain in the region. American Tree Sparrows (60) and Dark-eyed Juncos (36) were frequent visitors to feeders, in small numbers. A pair of Northern Cardinals were seen at a feeder in Ingoldsby, the only two of the count. Irruptive, northern finches such as crossbills, redpolls, siskins, and grosbeaks were non-existent this year, as predicted, but several small flocks of American Goldfinch (36) could be heard occasionally moving overhead to new feeding areas.

Some people have expressed concern that the low numbers recorded this year did not accurately depict what was actually in the region. Many of their birds returned to feeders the next day, and were missed on the count. It is important to remember, however, that we are one of over 2,000 counts taking place in the next few weeks across the Western Hemisphere. It is this coverage and the continued data collected over the long term that provides researchers with the information they need to assess the health of our bird populations in North America. Our anomalous day shouldn't skew the overall results.

A huge thank you to all the participants for making the 53rd annual Minden Christmas Bird Count another memorable one. I'll be sure to request better weather next year.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. /Photo by Anne Barbour

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Mental health and wellbeing focus of library book collection

JENN WATT
County Life Editor

Barb Fraser, left, and Sherrill Sherwood were two of the organizers of the mental health and wellbeing book collection at the Haliburton County Public Library. Fraser, a social worker, provided her insights to Sherwood, the library's collection development co-ordinator. The books can be found online at haliburtonlibrary.ca. There is currently a display with a selection of the collection at the Dysart library branch. /JENN WATT Staff

Everyone goes through difficult times in their life, whether it be grief, depression, anxiety, relationship issues or periods of intense stress. Sometimes, finding the right book at the right time can make a difference.

The Haliburton County Public Library is promoting a new collection available online and in its branches filled with dozens of books on mental health and wellbeing, selected by social worker Barb Fraser of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team.

"We just want people to feel better. It's not an end in itself, it's one of many tools or many resources across our community," says Fraser, who has been a social worker in Haliburton for more than 12 years. "People might have a strong faith, it might be their church that gives them strength. For other people it might be a therapist. For some people it might be a physician. For some people it's their weekly knitting group that they go to. For others it's using books to perhaps begin a conversation or to help really reflect on what's going on with you."

Some of the books in the collection were already owned by the library, others were purchased specifically for the new initiative. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library contributed more than $2,000 for the purchase of new books and e-books.

"It was very generous for them to agree to complement the collection that was already there and expand it," Fraser said.

The idea for the mental health and wellbeing collection was sparked during conversations Fraser had with Sherrill Sherwood, collection development coordinator at Haliburton County Public Library.

The women initially met when Sherwood signed up for Fraser's Mindfulness-Based Chronic Pain Management course, which is for stress, anxiety, physical and/or emotional pain.

"I would bring books I have to supplement the material in the course. … I think we just bonded around books and then I found out she worked at the library," Fraser said.

Sherwood and Fraser met with Erin Kernohan-Berning, branch services librarian at HCPL and came up with ideas about curating, acquiring and promoting the materials. About six months ago, Kernohan-Berning added a button to the main website for HCPL, which leads to a special page that features the mental health and wellbeing books. The visually-appealing presentation allows for online browsing by those who are interested, and it's also broken down by topic to quickly narrow down the search for those looking for something specific.

Fraser thanked both Kernohan-Berning and CEO Bessie Sullivan for embracing the idea.

Sherwood pointed out that what patrons take out from the library is private.

"We won't talk about what you take out here," she said.

Having a specific resource list for those who are going through difficult periods in their lives can help to reduce feelings of isolation, Sherwood said.

Fraser agreed, saying the presence of an organized collection shows people they're not alone.

"If you have a collection on anxiety or you have a collection on depression or you have a collection on grief, you look at this and go, oh, there's a lot of people struggling with this like me," she said.

Sherwood said it could have a similar impact as the Rainbow Collection, which is a list of books with subject matter pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community that can be accessed online.

"I think it takes away the stigma ... if the library says 'here, there's so many people dealing with this that we actually have a specific collection,'" she said.

The Dysart library branch currently has a display with many of the books from the mental health and wellbeing collection available. They can also be found and reserved online at haliburtonlibrary.ca. Click the link on the right side of the page to be taken to the list.

Sherwood said the resources don't replace the support of a mental health professional and said if you are in crisis, go to the closest emergency department or call the 24/7 Four County Crisis Line at 1-866-995-9933.

HSAD students wrap it up

Above, Sophie Tremblay speaks with visitors at Fleming College's annual Wrap It Up! student art exhibition.

Left, Henry Mason of HKM Blacksmithing speaks with a visitor at Fleming College's annual Wrap It Up! student art exhibition held at the Haliburton School of Art + Design on Dec. 15. The popular year-end show and sale featured work including pottery, blacksmithing and painting and drawing./SUE TIFFIN Staff

Artists and visitors mingled at Fleming College's annual Wrap It Up!

Debbie McLeod's pottery was on display.

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Staff pick

New Tricks
by David Rosenfelt

Andy Carpenter gains possession of an adorable Bernese puppy whose owner was brutally murdered. Few can rival Andy's affection for dogs, and he will do whatever it takes to ensure that this pup doesn't fall into the wrong hands. However, his playful new friend is valued by several people, many of whom are willing to resort to violence. It will take more than Andy's usual courtroom theatrics to save this dog, including a little help from his beloved golden retriever, Tara.

Vicky Says: The cover of this one caught my eye, and I'm so glad it did, because I then had to read the entire series! I really enjoyed Andy Carpenter's cavalier approach during the court case, and, of course, his love of dogs.

Rating: 10/10

Check out *New Tricks* from the Haliburton County Public Library today.

Legion Events

Branch 636 Minden

Monday – Thursday Lunch 12 to 2 p.m.
Tuesday Special liver day, regular menu also.
Friday 12 to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., Fish, Chicken Wings, Fries and Onion Rings.
Daily events: Monday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Haliburton Highlands Rug Hookers. (every two weeks)
Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Senior art group. 1 to 4 p.m., Bid Euchre,
Wednesday 12 - Meat Draws, 4 butcher quality meats for $1 a ticket.
1 to 4 p.m., Ladies Darts, 5 to 7 p.m. Calorie Counters 5”30 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday 7 p.m. Darts. 7 p.m. Euchre
Friday Every second week, Karaoke with Fred and Linda, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Saturday Special Lunch every week with meat Draw at 1 p.m.
Sunday Sports Day 12 to 4:30 p.m.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Friday Fish & Chips 6-9p.m.
Saturday Meat draw 2 p.m. Early bird 3 p.m. Sharp! If you come out offer to help sell tickets please!
Monday Card night 7 p.m. Beginners welcome
Tuesday Executive meeting 7p.m.
Wednesday Fun Darts 7:30 p.m.
Beginner’s welcome.
Thursday HHHC social rec. drop in.
Come out for coffee/tea or juice, cards, board games,crafts, Tec. time, pool or just to chat, free 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Upcoming Events
Jan 25 Pat and Phyllis Gallen Memorial
Lake Trout Derby
Having a event ? Book our hall and have L.A. cater for you. They do a great job! Want to get involved? Please call or drop by the legion 705-448-2221
now if you can help.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Dave Allen, PRO 705-457-2571
Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m.
Tuesday Night Dart League starting at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start
Bingo Doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. - $1,000 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at
7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Cribbage 1 p.m. start
Meat Draw Five Draws, Five Prizes each draw, First draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw - 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Chester Howse, MC Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw,
Tickets are $1 each from noon onwards
Whether you’re planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcl129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129.
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Send your letters to the editor to jenn@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Keeping your goals in focus for 2020

IT'S JANUARY OF the year 2020. I'm feeling like this year is special. We all know that perfect vision is measured as 20/20. What if we make this the year of having perfect vision and ultimately clarity for the decisions that lie ahead of us? Specifically about any changes we want to make to live healthier lives.

The biggest obstacle in making any change is remembering that we want to make those changes.

LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

We are faced with so many choices and opportunities in a given day that it's hard not to take the path of least resistance. It's easier to come home after a long day of work and sit on the couch instead of getting out for a walk. It's easier to chow down on a bowl of cereal (while sitting on the couch) than it is to put together a well-balanced meal. We are bombarded with temptations for easy/convenient. The flip side is that this will lead us to a tough and inconvenient future when the aches, pains and illness set in. Living a life of leisure is a dream. It is a pipe dream. Sorry to burst your bubble.

Making changes means changing habits. It takes 66 days to change a habit. There are theories that say it takes 21 days but it really does take 66 days to cement it into your life. So step one is take out a calendar and count out 66 days. That works out to be nine weeks. Next write/type/scratch your goal into that calendar on the final day. Then you're going to break the goal up into small pieces and work backwards until you get to the start date. For example, let's say that three times a week you want to walk five kilometres but currently you are walking one kilometre a couple of times a week. What you would do is start at one kilometre two to three times a week, and add half a kilometre every week. At the end of the nine weeks you'd be at your goal of five kilometres three times per week.

Staying on track is tougher than setting the goal and making a plan. That's a great first step. In my experience, it's easy to lose sight of the goal. So, once you have the first part set, implement some of these ideas:

- Make appointments in your calendar that support your goal. Scheduling a walk or exercise session makes sense, but this strategy can also be used to support any other goal. If improving your eating habits (losing weight) is your focus, schedule time to make a meal plan, grocery list, grocery shopping, preparation of your meals, and the consumption of the meal. Even making an appointment to go to bed at a specific time works, if better sleep is your goal.
- Establish a method of accountability. Buddy up with someone who shares your timing for making a change. It will work even if you're not sharing the same goal. It may even work better if you're the competitive type.
- Celebrate the small successes. Find ways of doing this without compromising your goal. Find a healthy treat like a hot bath, a cup of tea, or planning a visit with a special friend. Anything that provides an opportunity to be mindful of what you've done. Let a smile come to your face. There's nothing quite like the feeling of empowerment.
- Let go of the missteps. If you miss a workout or eat a doughnut, it's not the end of the world. There are 66 days in this plan and it's OK to have a few bad ones. Don't give up.

This is the only time we'll have 365 days to see or say 20/20. Use it as a reminder to be honest with yourself. No one knows you better than you know yourself. Look in the mirror and find your truth. Then take the 360+ days you have to make it happen.

Happy 2020!

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.

Top 10 reasons to recycle New Year's resolutions

WE ALL MAKE New Year's resolutions. The problem, as I see it, is we try to mix it up and make new ones every year. This year, I've just decided to recycle last year's. Here are 10 good reasons why.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. If at first you don't succeed…
2. At least my success rate will be predictable.
3. Another year, I won't have to eat kale.
4. What's the point of thinking of new things to fail at?
5. People love the classics.
6. With my memory, they're just like new again.
7. I've already tried everything else.
8. I can consider last year a practice run.
9. Hoping third time is a charm.
10. I still want to find a unicorn.

Lieutenant Governor's 2019 holiday message

Happy holidays!

As we await the promises and challenges of a new year, let us reflect on how fortunate we are to live in a country with an enduring and healthy democracy. Even with the tremendous change and uncertainty of our time, our civic spirit is undiminished in Ontario.

I am grateful for the warmth with which you have welcomed me into your lives this past year. All across this beautiful province, there are so many wonderful stories of people taking pride in their communities, tackling challenges, and aspiring to make them even more viable and inclusive.

For example, I think of neighbours who came together to rebuild after flooding in Ottawa, and people from the farthest reaches of our province feeling compelled to donate to relief efforts. I also think of first responders, social workers, Scouts, volunteers, and citizens old and young receiving awards for bravery, community service, and academic excellence.

Particularly memorable are those who bridge the past and the future, including farmers in Bradford West Gwillimbury who—with their sons and daughters, the future leaders of this province's agricultural sector—are investing in new technologies and taking seriously their contributions to food security.

From north to south, east to west, residents and members of civil society have been working with local governments to find real solutions to complex problems. I had the privilege of witnessing the signing of a ground-breaking and promising friendship accord between First Nations, municipalities, and economic development authorities in the Peterborough area.

And how very inspiring to see young people caring about the environment around them. Who could forget the thousands of young people, supported by their families and teachers, who marched for climate action and for more resilient communities. Locally, participants of the Love Your Lake project in Prince Edward County enthusiastically pick up and track litter, creating a more aesthetically pleasing and healthy landscape.

Beyond our borders at the United Nations in New York, young people and civic leaders from Ontario made headlines sharing challenges and innovations with global citizens so that we all may learn to live together in a world that works for everyone. Ontarians are leading the word towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

All of you give me hope. As we look ahead to the year 2020, we have every reason to be optimistic in Ontario. This is a place where everyone, including those less fortunate, may reach their potential and live with dignity.

Whatever traditions and cultures you choose to celebrate, I wish you a joyous holiday with family and friends. May love and light fill your days. And may the year ahead bring you good health and happiness, peace and harmony.

Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell

Re/Max gives back

Francine Newton and Don Veno from the Minden Food Bank, seated in front, accept a $1,000 donation from Re/Max North Country Realty Inc. All agents (Minden, Haliburton, Wilberforce and Kennisis Lake offices) contribute to the donation fund. /DEBBIE COMER Staff

Donna Gagnon and John Watson of SIRCH, seated in front, accept a $1,000 donation from Re/Max North Country Realty Inc.

Tammy Warburton of YWCA, holding the cheque, accepts a $1,000 donation from Re/Max North Country Realty Inc.

Cynthia Hutchinson and Cathy Constantino from the Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, seated in front, accept a $1,000 donation from Re/Max North Country Realty Inc.

Event to highlight rail trail experiences

DARREN LUM

County Life Staff

Stories and photos from rail trails in the Highlands and around the world can convey the affection and love people have for the trails, Pamela Marsales, coordinator of the Toronto to Algonquin Gateway, says.

These stories will be the heart of the upcoming Rail Trail Stories event, the result of a partnership between TAG and Friends of the Rail Trail, or FoRT.

Marsales said among the many stories that stand out for her is one about how a young family from Sweden came here to hike the Rail Trail.

"It makes you wonder. How did people from Sweden find our Rail Trail and what was their experience of it? We would like to know more," she said.

The stories can also include the experiences of people from the Highlands, who went to other rail trails in communities in Ontario, Canada or around the world.

"We're inviting them to submit their stories and pictures to me ahead of time, and according to the time we have available we'll try to curate as many of those into the evening," she said.

Held from 4:30 p.m. to close to 7:30 on Sunday, Jan. 19 at the HHOA Fish Hatchery, the event also offers people the opportunity to share experiences through an open microphone storytelling portion.

Catering will be provided by SIRCH, who will be serving up homemade soup, sandwiches, squares and cookies – vegetarian and gluten free available.

Tickets are $18, or $25 with the purchase of a FoRT membership. Memberships help with funding ongoing programming. Children 14 and under are free.

The all-ages event includes the screening of two short documentaries, each close to seven minutes. One is the Rodney Fuentes filmed/edited and co-produced TAG documentary, *TAG Along the Greenway*, and the other is focused on New Zealand's Otago Central Rail Trail.

For more information or to RSVP email pamela.marsales@gmail.com or call/text 705-457-4767.

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We would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped with our successful Turkey Dinner December 8.

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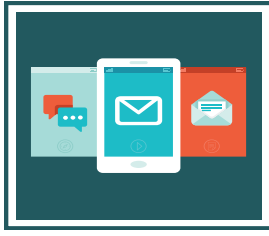

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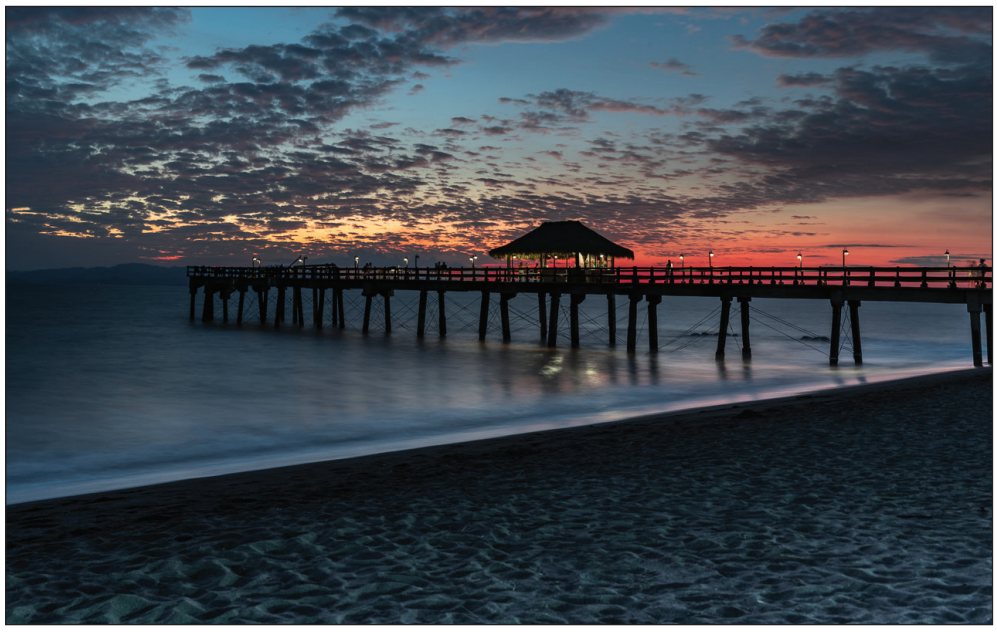
Send a letter to the editor to jenn@haliburtonpress.com



Pictorial contest winner 1st Advanced: "Cheers" by Amin Shivji

Pictorial contest winner 1st Intermediate: "Sunrise on Horseshoe Lake" by Julie Jones

Pictorial contest winner 1st Novice: "Romeo" by Anne Hodgson

The Haliburton Highlands Camera Club meets the third Wednesday of every month, alternating between Minden and Haliburton. There is no charge for attendance and everyone is welcome. Whether you are a professional with high-end gear or just starting out with a point and shoot camera or smartphone, there are opportunities for everyone to learn how to improve their images. See the website at highlandscameraclub.ca for time and location of the next meeting. You can also view all competition images on the website. There will be a smartphone/tablet photography workshop in Minden in January. See the club's website for details.

The Writers' Circle

A monthly feature of local creative writers' work

Uncle John's Memorial Service

In 2002, my 31-year-old marriage ended in separation. Shortly after, I bought my cottage on Eagle Lake. And shortly after that, Uncle John's stepdaughter, Diane, called. She invited me and anyone else interested to the memorial service for my late Uncle John and my late Aunt Eleanor at the Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery.

Just before he died, Uncle John let me see him near his home in Trenton in a nursing home. He was 82 years old, widowed, after his second wife, Eleanor, died the year before. He'd been depressed for the last 10 years of his life, his body giving out, his spirit giving out. He suffered from arthritis, bursitis, poor circulation and had just had his right leg amputated from the knee down. He was the shadow of the man he had once been – decorated war hero, super athlete, daredevil, master of all trades, cottager on Lake Kushog in the Haliburton Highlands. A few years ago he had to sell his cottage that he built from the ground up.

"Nothing else to do on the cottage," I remember he joked. "Guess I'll have to sell it."

"Guess what, Uncle John? I bought a cottage!" asking and answering my question all in one breath.

"You bought a cottage? It's too much work for you, Barb," he responded. "Where is it? Get Diane's husband, Bill, to check the roof for you. Get a TV. You'll be too lonely by yourself."

"Don't worry. I'm like you. Eleanor said I should have been your child. I can fix things. The roof is metal, good for a lifetime. It's on Eagle Lake, near where yours was on Kushog. Where's Bill and Diane's cottage?"

"St. Nora's Island on Kushog."

About six months after my visit he died. I got a phone call from his stepdaughter, Diane.

"Hi Barb, how's the family? It's been a long time."

"My dad is 88 and my mom is 83 and they're living independently. They're doing fine."

"That's great. I called to invite you and anyone else who's interested to attend a memorial service this summer for John and Eleanor."

"Where?"

"At the Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery in Minden. I'll explain where it is."

"I know exactly where it is. I've been heading to the Highlands for over 50 years, first with my parents. We stayed on Grass Lake. I spent 10 years as a camper and staff person at camps in the Highlands and after, my husband and I and our children rented cottages in the area. Now, I'm on my own. I just bought a cottage on Eagle Lake."

"John mentioned you recently purchased a cottage."

"I'll be there and let you know who else will attend."

I wondered how much Haliburton had always been a part of me.

I passed out the invitation to my daughters, Marla and Melanie, my ex-husband, Howie, my brother and my parents.

"I'm definitely coming, Mom," replied Melanie.

"I'll be there," replied Howie. "Can I stay at your cottage?"

"Sure, you can stay overnight with me and Melanie," I replied after considering my boundaries. The cottage was my safe haven, my place for healing and liberation from a 31-year-old marriage that had just ended. I was vulnerable.

"Your mom and I won't be coming," RSVP'd my dad.

My parents had their reasons. I believe the main reason was that my late uncle converted to Christianity and that the memorial would follow Christian tradition.

Uncle John was born into a Jewish family. His birth name was Jack Goldberg. He was the middle child born to parents, Alice and Mark Goldberg. My dad, Hyman, called "Hy" for short, was the eldest.

Danny, the youngest, had died a few years ago. Early on, my Uncle John changed his name to John Bass. He took his mother's maiden name. He grew up in a time of rampant anti-semitism. Many Jews like him changed their names to more Christian sounding names so they could enter clubs, schools, do business in a Christian world. My uncle hung out at the Christian "Y" and became a star basketball player.

He married the "girl next door," Nancy. They had a son, Steve and an adopted son, Guy. When I visited his family, they had a lovely ranch style bungalow and a big dog. Life changed. Nancy died suddenly from a clot to the brain. Her mother became the caregiver. Uncle John never talked much about his challenges in life. He had a constant restlessness about him and moved around from place to place. He took jobs in the States in newspaper promotions and came back to Toronto more as a visitor. He didn't have a good relationship with his sons and became estranged from them over time. He remarried Eleanor and adopted her family as his own. Life was better, more stable. He built a cottage.

One beautiful summer day in the Highlands, family and friends gathered for the memorial service. We gathered amid the tall pines; we gathered looking out on blue lake and rocky shore of Twelve Mile Lake. My thoughts drifted to happy memories spent with my family at Uncle John's cottage. Everyone, except Uncle John, would be relaxing, socializing, snacking on Aunt Eleanor's "bumsteads," a mixture of egg, tuna, Velveeta cheese, mayonnaise, onion and a little chili pepper sprinkled in and then toasted on an English muffin. Uncle John would be up on a ladder fixing the roof or hauling another rock out of the lake to complete some rock structure. Quite often you'd hear a cry of "Ouch!" as he dropped another rock on his toe.

The sound of the bagpipes of the Highlanders' Minden Legion brought me back to presence, brought me to tears, marching in, giving my Uncle John, this decorated war hero, the respect he so deserved finishing with a 21-gun salute.

I remembered my father's words, "Do you know your Uncle Jackie pulled a comrade out of a burning tank!"

And my mother adding the gory details, "And most of his face was gone so he wore bandages."

"Uncle Jackie visits him regularly travelling to Montreal," my dad added.

Then, Bill, John's stepson, led the singing of *Amazing Grace*.

"If anyone would like to say anything about John, now's the time."

My daughter, Melanie, stepped forward, "My Uncle John was so gentle with animals. When I was quite young and our family was renting a cottage on Beech Lake, my cousin and I rescued an injured bird. We wrapped it up and brought it into my bedroom. We wanted to warm up the little bird so we used a hairdryer. Then, things weren't going so well so we decided to call Uncle John. He came right over, no questions asked, and tried to feed the bird with a dropper. The bird died. I know the hairdryer finished the poor thing off."

Everyone chuckled.

Then, my ex, Howie stepped forward, "John had a real obsession with rocks. You could always tell his cottage from the others from the number of rock structures on the property – rock fences, patios, entrance ways..."

Again everyone chuckled in agreement.

I stepped forward, "You know Eleanor used to say watching me swim, that I should have been John's daughter, that I swam slow and steady like him. He was my hero. I remember when John was working in promotions for the *Toronto Telegram,* it was the time of the Marilyn Bell swim of Lake Ontario. On a dare by his coworkers, John jumped out of a boat into the cold waters and swam 17 miles. He had to be pulled out because of a leg cramp. I brought the newspaper article here today."

My father died recently and had a traditional Jewish burial. A few months later he had an unveiling service with the installation of a memorial stone. After the service, the rabbi handed me a marker that he pulled out of the ground when the permanent stone was installed. I wasn't sure what to do with it. I took it and put it in my car. The next weekend I drove to my cottage. I set it amid the tall pines, amid blue lake and rocky shore of Eagle Lake, just a 20-minute drive from Uncle John's memorial on Twelve Mile Lake. It seems a higher power brought two brothers together in the end.

By Barbara Rosen

Community Events

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd
When: Thursday, Jan. 2, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Wher e: A. J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd
When: Friday, Jan. 3, noon to 1:30 p.m.
Where: A. J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton

Minden Legion presents Gord Kidd
When: Saturday, January 4, 2020, 2 to 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Legion
Lunch available to purchase from 12-2pm, Meat Draw at 1:00 pm

Taoist Tai Chi - Open Houses
Haliburton, Haliburton United Church
Mon. Jan. 6, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Thurs. Jan. 9, 10 am - noon
Kinmount, Galway Community Hall
Mon. Jan. 6, 10 am - noon
Thurs. Jan. 9, 10 am - noon
Stanhope, Stanhope Community Centre
Tues. Jan. 7, 10 am - noon
Fri. Jan. 10, 10 am - noon
For more information: contact Wilma at 705 457-5829

No-Family Doctor Immunization Clinic
When: Wednesday, Jan. 8
Where: Health Unit office (191 Highland Street, Unit 301) in Haliburton.
Free immunization clinics for families without a doctor. To book an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1507.

Sexual Health Clinic
When: Wednesday, Jan. 8, 10:30 am to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

Mike Stevens: Harmonica Virtuoso
When: Thursday, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 New Castle Street, Minden
What: Breathe in the world. Breathe out the music. In this energetic and interactive family performance with awe inspiring harmonica virtuoso Mike Stevens, discover that music is inside and around us all the time. Presented by Razzamataz Kids' Shows! For more info and tickets visit www.razzamataz.ca/shows/ or contact Dawn Mole-Hurd 705-854-0728

Haliburton Ladies Auxiliary Sunday Breakfast
When: Sunday, Jan.12, 9:30 to 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall
Cost: $6
Menu: Eggs or pancakes, bacon or sausage, hash browns, toast, orange juice, tea/coffee.

Enviro-Cafe
When: Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church
What: Paul Heaven of Glenside Ecological Services will speak about how wetlands mitigate the effects of climate change. Organized by Environment Haliburton and Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.
Cost: by donation
Info: Susan Hay 705-457-9239

Christmas Break Shinny and Public Skating Hours at the A.J. LaRue Arena:

Shinny: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
December 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30, 31 & January 2, 3, 5
$5 per person, Full equipment is required

Free Holiday Public Skating: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
December 22, 24, 26, 29, 31 & January 1, 2 & 5
12:00 – 1:30 p.m. – December 27 & January 3
3:00 – 4:30 p.m. – December 23 & 30

have fun be active do it in Dysart et al

For questions contact: amueller@dysartetal.ca or 705-457-1740 x. 635

Highland Trio in the Clubroom
When: Saturday, Jan. 18, 3 to 6 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Clubroom
Cost: $5.00 cover charge for non-members
*50/50 draw at 6 p.m.

Minden Agricultural Society's Annual General Meeting
When: Saturday Jan. 18, 12 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle Street, Minden
Come and enjoy a complimentary lunch and meet many of our volunteers
For more information please contact Eric Casper at 705-455-7997or email casper.3742@gmail.com

Sexual Health Clinic
When: Wednesday, January 22, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

Ripopée by L'Aubergine
When: Sunday, Mar. 1, 2 p.m.
Where: Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, 5358 Haliburton County Road 21, Haliburton
What: Join four hilarious clowns on their whimsical – and sometimes chaotic – journey. A pure delight for all ages. Presented by Razzamataz Kids' Shows! For more info and tickets visit www.

Recurring Events

Devotional Gatherings
When: Mondays and/or Tuesdays, 2:30 and/or 7 p.m., to be arranged
Where: In homes at Minden, Kennisis Lake, Haliburton
What: Come join us for prayers, meditations and readings; all spiritual traditions are honoured and welcome. An open space for reflection, prayer and sharing for well-being of individuals and the state of the world. "Religion should unite all hearts and cause wars and disputes to vanish from the face of the earth..." Call Kathie/George at 705-286-3378 or Pat at 416-606-9657

The Highland Storytelling Circle
Beginning Dec. 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Meets the first Thursday of the month in the Radio Hall of Canoe FM. Join us with a story or just to listen. No charge, all welcome.
For more information call Bob at 705 457 8617.

SMART, safe and gentle exercise for Seniors.
Offered by VON for strength, balance and flexibility.
Haliburton: Parklane Apt. Tuesday, 1 to 2 p.m.
Echo Hills Apt. Thursday, 1 to 2 p.m.
Minden: Hyland Crest Auditorium - Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Classes are free
For more information, contact Cathy Thomas, 705-489-2187 or Carol Browne, 705-457-4551

Grief Support Group Community Support Services
When: 1st Wednesday of Every Month Hyland Crest Auditorium, Minden Hospital 1 to 3 p.m. or 2nd Wednesday of Every Month

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Abbey Retreat Center, 1150 Garden Gate Drive West Guilford
1 to 3 p.m.
Offering emotional support in a safe and non-judgemental environment. For more information about resources and services, please contact Tel 705-457-2941 x 2932 Email: infocc@hhhs.ca Or visit our website at www.hhhs.ca

Taoist Tai Chi
Stanhope - Stanhope Community Centre
Tuesday 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Haliburton - Haliburton United Church
Monday 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Kinmount- Galway Community Hall
Monday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. -12 p.m.
For more information please contact Wilma at 705-457-5829 or Taoist.org/Peterborough for schedule of classes

Minden Bible Church for Children's and Youth Programs
KidzLife (Mid-Week Kids Program): Every Tuesday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
MBC Youth (Youth Group): Every Thursday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
KidzLife ages: Grades JK to Grade 6
MBC Youth ages: Grades 7 to12
All are welcome and invited! Together, we will: learn about the truth and the life in Jesus Christ, play epic games, meet others within the community of Minden, eat snacks, etc.
www.mindenbiblechurch.ca

Morning Glories Fitness
Where: Upstairs, A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton
When: Tuesday and Friday mornings, 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.
Ladies fitness group for all levels
Contact: Jane 705-754-9996

Community Drum Circle
Wednesdays 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre Patio, 23 York St.
Join the community Drum Circle. Instruments available. Beginners welcome. Family-friendly. Each week a volunteer will facilitate the Circle. By donation in support of Haliburton DrumFest

Haliburton: Pickleball
When: Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton High School Gym.
Cost is $2 and rackets are provided. Bring clean indoor shoes.
Contact Jennifer Coates 705-749-3787 for further info.

Minden: Pickleball
When: Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: S.G. Nesbitt Community Centre, Minden
Racquets are provided so all you need are clean indoor shoes.
Cost is $2
Contact: Elisha Weiss, Community Development Coordinator, 705-286-2298 or eweiss@mindenhills.ca

Family Fun Bingo
Every Tuesday at 6 p.m.
At the Kinmount Legion

Harcourt Community Centre
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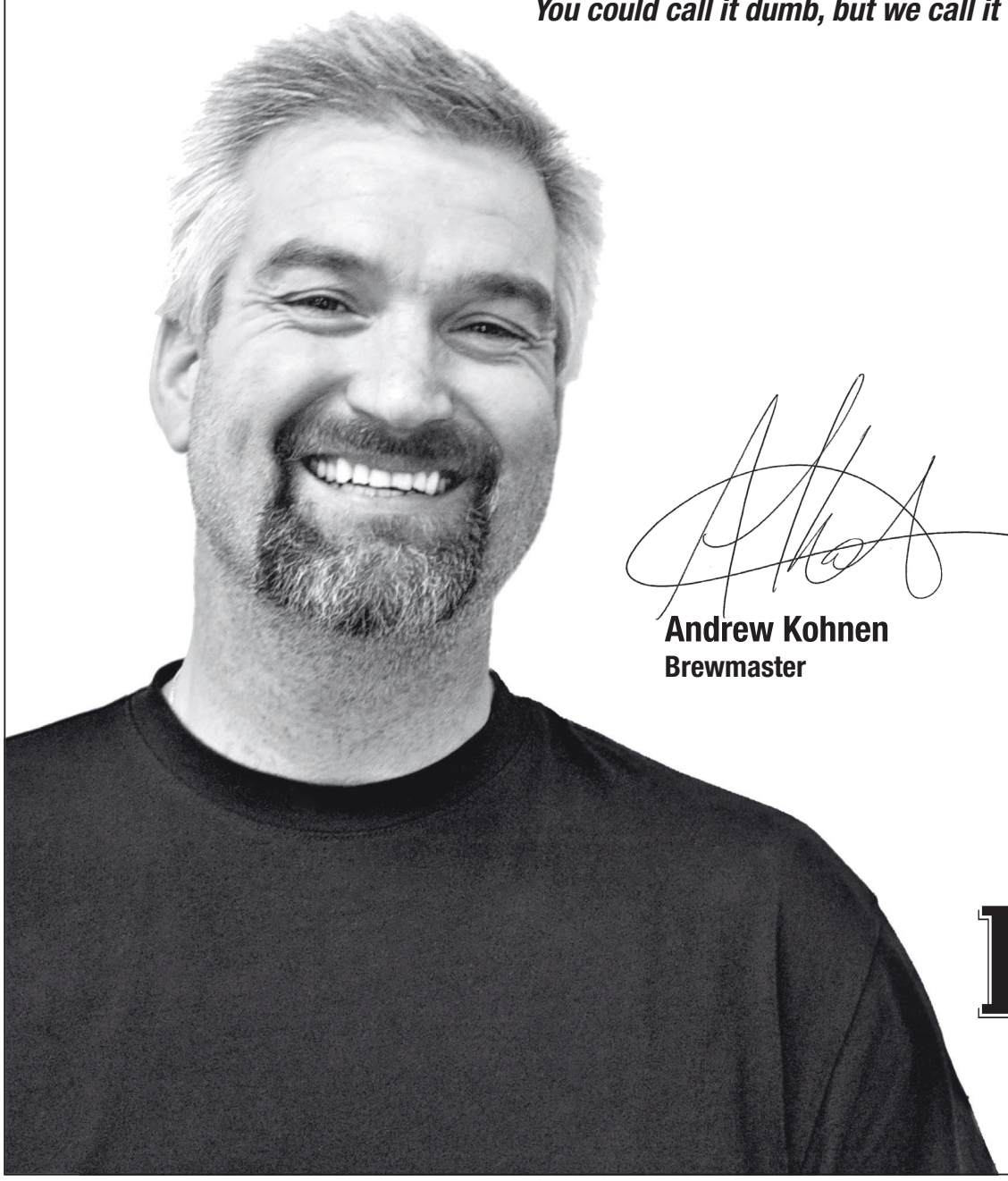
He took what he could from there and ventured to Scotland, Cornwall, and ultimately to Krefeld, Germany, working in the same brewery that had belonged to his ancestors. He came home to Canada for Hockley.

You could call it dumb, but we call it destiny.



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Minden
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Monday, December 22, 1986

The world famous
ROCKCLIFFE
This Week:
MUSIC FOR
YOUR EYES

Memories of Christmas past

Christmas in Haliburton County hasn't always been what it is today. In fact, you don't have to back many years to find a time when the airwaves weren't clogged in December with American pop singers belting out individual renditions of Jingle Bell Rock. And it wasn't that long ago that children round about this time of year didn't start to dream of mechanical toy heroes manufactured specifically for wiping out toy villains (batteries not included).

It's a curious thing, but talk to any oldster and you'll find that the further back you go the colder the winters get and the snowier the Christmasses.

To find out what Christmas was really like before television, before the bomb and before the world was contaminated with radio active sub-atomic particles, The Times went to the Hyland Crest Senior Citizen's home and spoke to some of the residents.

Lilly Hogg will be 91 in a few weeks. She was born on a farm near the Scotch Line Road and lived there until she was 15, when she moved out to the Bobcaygeon Road.

"Santa Claus was always good to us," she remembers, "we always got excited as Christmas Eve approached - though of course we found out who Santa was long before we let on.

"By today's standards we never got that much - a few candies, maybe some toy, or something special, but then we never really wanted that much anyway. Just something new and different. I just remember that I always took what ever I got, and I was always tickled to pieces to get anything.

"We never had a Christmas tree until my brothers were old enough to go out and cut one down. But I don't think that ever made us unhappy."

Mary McKelvey is 66. She and Lilly have been neighbours all Mary's life.

"One of the things I remember most about those early Christmasses is fetching the turkey. We used to grow all our own and in the winter they'd roost in the pine trees near our barn. Well, shortly before Christmas Eve my brothers and I would go and climb one of those trees to bring a turkey down. You'd grab the beast and then pass it down to someone else who'd put it in a sack and then we'd drag it home.

"I can remember one Christmas - my uncle Henry Johnston was with us - and my brother Charlie, he wanted to see what presents we had. So after mum sent us all to bed, Charlie peeked down through the stove pipe hole. He said, 'well, I bet that's for me.' It was a little black dog.

"We were just small then and we decorated the tree with all kinds of stuff - candles, home made things. The whole family helped.

"After Christmas dinner we'd go off to visit relatives. First we'd go to Uncle Johnny's and then Uncle Sam's, and it just went on. Christmas took quite a while in those days."

Jean Taylor was born in Scotland in 1900 and came to Canada when she was 28.

Lifelong neighbours, Mary McKelvey, left, and Lily Hogg enjoy a laugh while reminiscing over the many Christmasses they have spent in Minden.

This is what she remembers:

"Of course when I was a child in Scotland the big celebration was New Year's instead of Christmas, that was when we got all our gifts.

"We never, as children, got a lot. We never wanted a lot. But we were very happy. I think it had something to do with the fact that we made all our own fun.

"Nowadays it's all different. Children want so much, and I really don't think they appreciate what they get.

"When I was a child we got a few candies in our stockings, and maybe some toy or other. And then we'd play games. It was all great fun."

Pearl Lyle is in her 90th year. Raised at Horseshoe Lake Lodge - her father built it - Pearl was one of 11 children. As she remembers it Christmas was always a time to look forward to.

"One of the best things about Christmas was the sleigh riding. Where we lived there was a great big hill which we'd slide down right onto the lake.

"One year there was so much snow our parents couldn't get out to Minden to do the Christmas shopping. This one particular year we still believed in Santa Claus, so it was a blow for us. All mother had was some fruit and raisins and nuts which she'd bought at the beginning of December.

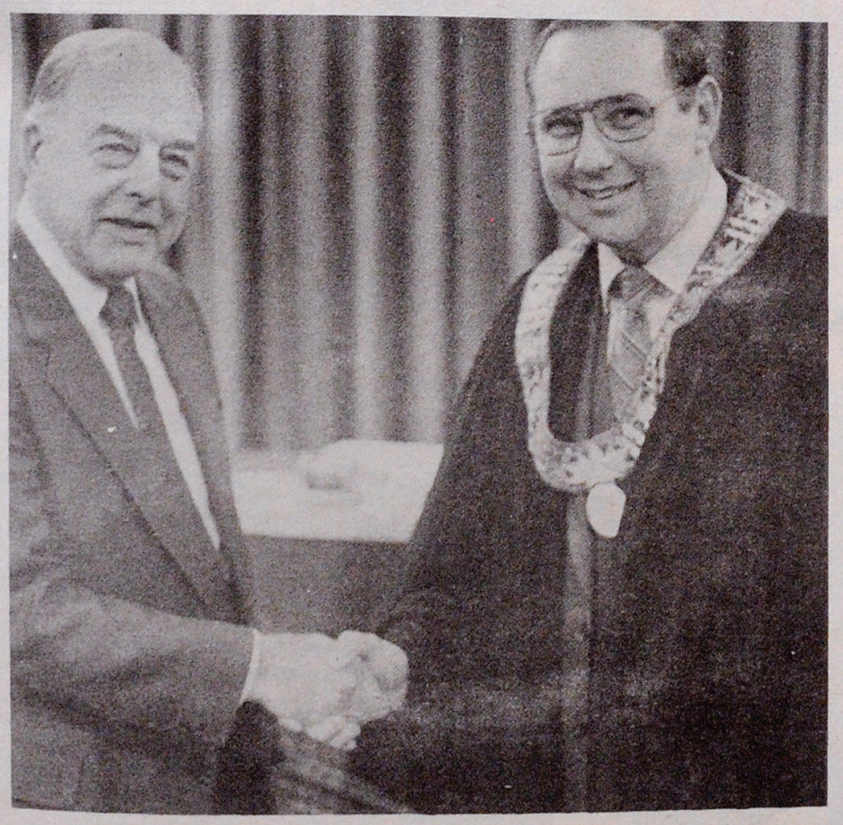
"So that's what she put in our stockings. But my sister had already feasted on the fruit, and as soon as she discovered more of it in her stocking, she said, "well if this isn't some more of those darn raisins.

"I'll always remember that - I was about nine at the time.

"Besides my 10 brothers and sisters there were three foster children in the family. Their parents had been killed in a train wreck, so we had taken them up from Toronto to live with us. That meant that around Christmas time the house was often pretty full. One Christmas dinner there were over 32 people sitting at the table - but there was still lots of food left over.

"We never did get to church on Christmas Day. Or any day in winter for that matter. The snow was always too deep. Instead, a preacher - a retired fellow from the old country - used to come around to some of the homes in the area to hold services there. Ours was one of the larger ones so he often came to us. That was about the only church we got in winter.

"Oh yes, we had a lot of snow in those days."



Outgoing Haliburton County Warden, Harry Davis, left, congratulates the new Warden of the County, Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey. The ceremonies were held Tuesday, December 16 at the inaugural session of the County Council

Reeve on the mend

Glamorgan Reeve Bob McCausland is "coming along nicely, thank you."

The Gooderham resident has been moved to a Coronary Care Unit from the Intensive Care Unit at Toronto General Hospital following a second heart transplant operation December 11.

His family is delighted with his progress and, according to his daughter, Robyn, on Sunday, his spirits are high and he is a good patient.

The family will spend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with Mr. McCausland, taking a little Christmas tree with them to "brighten up his room."

"We are truly amazed at the number of caring people who have called about Dad," Robyn said, "It's nice to know so many people care about him."

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Old Donald Road $44,900 3.49AC
Wenona Lake $40,000 0.42AC
Fred Jones Road $25,000 0.38AC

Seasons Greetings From
The Haliburton Real Estate Team

We wish you the very best as 2019 comes to an end and look forward to good health & prosperity in the New Year!

Linda, Karen,
Kim & Alyssa

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